

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing method comprising:

a step of generating a calibration condition for  
image forming means, by reading a first chart formed  
5 by said image forming means with reading means and  
generating a calibration condition for said image  
forming means, based on the data obtained by said  
reading;

10 a step of generating a calibration condition for  
said reading means, using a second chart printed in  
advance; and

a discrimination step of discriminating said  
first and second charts;

15 wherein said discrimination step discriminates  
whether a chart read in each of said step of  
generating calibration condition for image forming  
means and said step of generating calibration  
condition for image reading means is an appropriate  
chart.

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2. An image processing method according to claim  
1, wherein each of said first and second charts is  
provided with a mark formed by a color corresponding  
to a kind of the chart; and

25 said discrimination step discriminates the color  
of said mark.

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3. An image processing method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of informing to a user when said chart is discriminated as inappropriate.

5           4. An image processing method for generating a calibration condition matching the characteristics of an apparatus based on data obtained by reading a chart, the method comprising steps of:

10           detecting, from said data, a mark attached to said chart; and  
              discriminating whether said data are appropriate according to a result of said detection.

15           5. An image processing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

              informing a user of a fact that the reading position or the resolution in reading said chart is inappropriate, according to a result of said detection.

20           6. An image processing method according to claim 5, further comprising:

              discriminating whether said chart is skewed according to the result of said detection; and

25           informing a user of skewed position when said chart is skewed.

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7. An image processing method according to claim  
4, further comprising:

informing a user of a fact that a kind of said  
chart is inappropriate, according to a result of said  
5 detection.

8. An image processing method according to claim  
4, further comprising:

judging a direction of said chart according to a  
10 result of said detection; and  
generating said calibration condition from said  
detected data according to said direction.

9. An image processing method for entering read  
15 data obtained by reading a chart printed in advance  
with reading means and generating calibration data for  
calibrating said reading means based on said read  
data;

wherein said chart is rendered foldable with the  
20 printed surface thereof inward and is not printed with  
a patch in the vicinity of the folding portion, and  
said chart is stored in an operation manual of said  
image processing method in a state folded in said  
folding portion with the printed surface thereof  
25 inward.

10. An image processing method according to

claim 9, wherein said chart is printed with plural same patches in different positions.

11. An image processing method according to  
5 claim 9, wherein the patches printed on said chart are larger in number in the highlight portion than in the shadow portion.

12. An image processing method according to  
10 claim 9, wherein said chart is printed with information indicating that said chart is for calibrating the reading means.

13. An image processing method according to  
15 claim 9, further comprising:  
entering density data of each of the patches contained in said chart printed in advance; and generating said calibration data based on said read data and said density data.

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14. An image processing method according to  
claim 9, wherein said reading means reads an original image and to output RGB image data.

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15. An image processing method according to  
claim 9, further comprising:  
entering data obtained by reading, with said

reading means, a chart image formed by image forming means based on patch data;

correcting said data using said calibration data;

and

5 generating calibration data for calibrating said image forming means based on said corrected data.

16. An image processing apparatus comprising:

means for generating a calibration condition for 10 image forming means, by reading a first chart formed by said image forming means with reading means and generating a calibration condition for said image forming means, based on the data obtained by said reading;

15 means for generating a calibration condition for said reading means, using a second chart printed in advance; and

discrimination means for discriminating said first and second charts;

20 wherein said discrimination means discriminates whether a chart read in each of said means for generating calibration condition for image forming means and said means for generating calibration condition for image reading means is an appropriate 25 chart.

17. A computer readable recording medium storing

a software of an image processing method, the method comprising:

5 a step of generating a calibration condition for image forming means, by reading a first chart formed by said image forming means with reading means and generating a calibration condition for said image forming means, based on the data obtained by said reading;

10 a step of generating a calibration condition for said reading means, utilizing a second chart printed in advance; and

a discrimination step of discriminating said first and second charts;

15 wherein said discrimination step discriminates whether a chart read in each of said step of generating calibration condition for image forming means and said step of generating calibration condition for image reading means is an appropriate chart.

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16. A chart to be used in an image processing method for entering read data obtained by reading a chart printed in advance with reading means and generating calibration data for calibrating said reading means based on said read data;

wherein said chart is rendered foldable with the printed surface thereof inward and is not printed with

a patch in the vicinity of the folding portion, and  
said chart is stored in an operation manual for said  
image processing method in a state folded in said  
folding portion with the printed surface thereof  
5 inward.